

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of managing a credit, comprising the steps of:

- (a) establishing a stored credit on behalf of a consumer, corresponding to an amount advanced by the consumer;
- (b) setting ~~rules-parameters~~ for repayment of amounts borrowed from the stored credit, wherein the ~~rules-parameters~~ for repayment include ~~rules-parameters~~ for at least one of ~~the-a~~ payment of interest and ~~the-a~~ payment of late fees, the parameters being set by the consumer;
- (c) obtaining a financial card, for providing access by the consumer to the stored credit;
- (d) ~~debiting-causing~~ a first amount to be debited from the stored credit, ~~as the-a~~ result of a financial transaction using the financial card, resulting in a remaining credit; and

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(e) after step (d), paying, by the consumer, of at least one of interest and late fees on the first amount, in accordance with the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b), wherein the at least one of interest and a late fee is added to the remaining credit to form a new stored credit available to the consumer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(f) after step (d) and before step (e), sending a statement to the consumer for at least one of the first amount, interest or a late fee, in accordance with the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) specify billing the consumer for at least one of interest and a late fee only if the first amount is not paid in full prior to a deadline set by the ~~rules-parameters~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) permit the consumer to set the maximum amount the stored credit can be debited by the first amount and subsequent amounts.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) permit the consumer to set ~~the-an~~ interest rate charged on at least the first amount.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) permit the consumer to set ~~the-a~~ monthly minimum payment for repaying at least the first amount.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 7, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) permit the consumer to set the monthly minimum payment as a percentage of the funds owed.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the first amount is debited from the stored credit in step (d) as the result of a purchase made using the financial card in a retail establishment.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the paying in step (e) further includes repaying at least a portion of the first amount, and wherein the at least a portion of the first amount is additionally added to the remaining credit to form the new stored credit.

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Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the stored credit is a savings account in a bank, the savings account being managed in accordance with the ~~rules~~parameters set in step (b), the bank providing the financial card to the consumer.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the stored credit is stored in a savings account in a bank, the savings account being managed in accordance with the ~~rules~~parameters set in step (b), the bank providing the financial card and statement to the consumer.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

(g) debiting a second amount from the remaining credit, using the financial card.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

(h) debiting a finance charge from the stored credit if the ~~rules~~parameters set in (b) are not met.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of managing a credit,
comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing a stored credit in a financial institution on
behalf of a consumer, corresponding to an amount advanced by
the consumer;

(b) setting ~~rules~~parameters for repayment of amounts borrowed
from the stored credit, wherein the ~~rules~~parameters for
repayment include ~~rules~~parameters for at least one of the
payment of interest and the payment of late fees, the
parameters being set by the consumer;

(c) issuing a financial card, for providing access by the
consumer to the stored credit;

(d) debiting a first amount from the stored credit as the
result of a financial transaction using the financial card,
resulting in a remaining credit;

(e) after step (d), crediting to the remaining credit, at
least one of interest and late fees on the first amount, paid
by the consumer, which said at least one of interest and late
fees accrued in accordance with the ~~rules~~parameters set in
step (b), wherein the at least one of interest and a late fee

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is added to the remaining credit to form a new stored credit available to the consumer.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein said ~~rules-parameters~~ are set in step (b) by the consumer.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

(f) after step (d) and before step (e), sending a statement to the consumer for at least one of the first amount, interest or a late fee, in accordance with the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein, the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in step (b) specify billing the consumer for at least one of interest and a late fee only if the first amount is not paid in full prior to a deadline set by the ~~rules-parameters~~.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

(h) debiting a finance charge from the stored credit if the ~~rules-parameters~~ set in (b) are not met.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, the ~~rules parameters set~~ in step (b) permit the consumer to set the an interest rate charged on at least the first amount.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the crediting in step (e) further includes crediting at least a portion of the first amount repaid by the consumer, and wherein the at least a portion of the first amount paid by the consumer is additionally added to the remaining credit to form the new stored credit.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A ~~system of financial~~ institution managing savings, comprising:

a record of a credit stored ~~credit by a consumer at the~~
financial institution; governed by rules parameters set by the
~~consumer;~~

a debit card affiliated with the financial institution, use of
which provides ~~providing the~~ consumer with access to said
stored credit; and

a billing system for managing said stored credit according to
~~said rules parameters set by the consumer,~~ wherein said

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billing system debits said stored credit in accordance with
purchases made using said debit card;

~~—said billing system generating a statement detailing said~~
~~debits to said stored credit and any interest or late fees due~~
~~in accordance with said rules-parameters, said billing system~~
~~further debiting said an amount of said debits from the record~~
~~of the stored credit in the amount of said debits and~~
~~crediting said stored credit in the amount of any repayments~~
~~of debits, payments of late fees and payments of interest made~~
~~by the consumer; and~~

the financial institution transmitting said statement to the
consumer.